

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 24-33, 45, 46, and 50, and cancel claims 38-44 without prejudice.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, ~~or a complement thereof.~~

25. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:5, ~~or a complement thereof.~~

26. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, ~~or a complement thereof.~~

27. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:5, ~~or a complement thereof.~~

28. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, ~~or a complement thereof.~~

29. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4, ~~or a complement thereof.~~

30. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, ~~or a complement thereof.~~

31. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4, ~~or a complement thereof.~~

32. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence contained in the plasmid deposited with ATCC® as Accession Number PTA-1143, ~~or a complement thereof.~~

33. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleotide sequence contained in the plasmid deposited with ATCC® as Accession Number PTA-1143, ~~or a complement thereof.~~

34. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein elevated levels of said nucleic acid molecule are indicative of cardiac myocyte hypertrophy.

35. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:5, wherein elevated levels of said nucleic acid molecule are indicative of cardiac myocyte hypertrophy.

36. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein elevated levels of said nucleic acid molecule are indicative of cardiac myocyte hypertrophy.

37. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:5, wherein elevated levels of said nucleic acid molecule are indicative of cardiac myocyte hypertrophy.

38-44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 24-~~37~~~~43~~ ~~or 44~~, and a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

46. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 24-~~37~~~~43~~ ~~or 44~~.

47. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 46, which is an expression vector.

48. (Previously Presented) An isolated host cell transfected with the vector of claim 46.

49. (Previously Presented) A method of expressing a polypeptide comprising the step of culturing the isolated host cell of claim 48 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed, thereby expressing the polypeptide.

50. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 24-~~37~~⁴³ ~~or 44~~ and instructions for use.